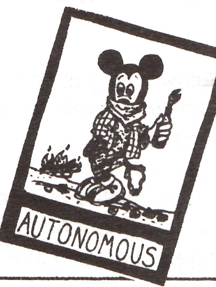
contraFLOW



Mayday 1996
FREE
No. 18

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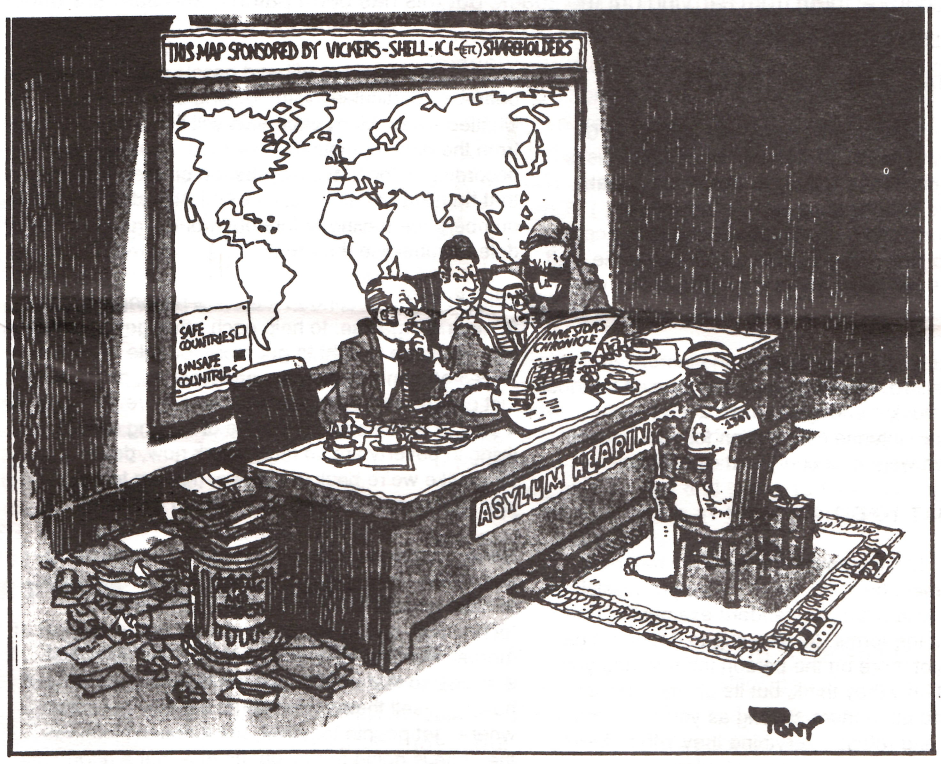
DESPERATELY SEEKING ASYLUM

On February 5th benefits were cut off to asylum seekers who did not apply for asylum at the port of entry, and to those who lost their application but are awaiting an appeal.

Of course, how and when you have to apply isn't made clear. Attempts to put up posters in airports were stopped because they were "political", and one refugee who was accidently taken through the passport check with a group of returning businessmen, and who tried to apply at the next point, customs, was told he was too late and had to go to the Home Office in Croydon. In April the airports relented and allowed posters to go up, but now only in European languages "due to lack of space".

Anyway, the effects will be disastrous. With no possibility to work legally, and now no way of getting any other money, increasing numbers will be left to starve, in the hope that they'll return to wherever they had to flee from, unless we do something about it.

Because of this situation, and the fact that the Refugee Council, who had money to open a hostel, hadn't, a large squat was opened up in Hackney as an emergency shelter, and to highlight the situation, a squat called ARCH - Autonomous Refugee Centre Hackney.



nicked from CARF - buy a copy - see back

...and which country did you say you came from Mr Er...?

AUTONOMOUS REFUGEE CENTRE HACKNEY

The building was the old Magistrates Court in Stoke Newington Road, empty for years and with steel doors and windows but with an open window on the first floor that had been tempting the locals for ages. The first mistake was going in before checking who owned it - it was assumed that as it was still for sale it still belonged to the state, which would've made it appropriate and make procedings predictable. In fact it had been bought by Harinbrook Properties, a small property company connected to Eugena, a building outfit, who liked to pose as security guards, bailiffs and anything else. They tried three illegal evictions, which were foiled by physical force, with great assistance from the local Turkish and Kurdish community, and the cops. The cops only tried once to force their way in, but were eventually convinced that their legal position was rather dubious. All this made the situation rather stressful, and tiring as 24-hour watches were kept until the owners finally decided to go to court.

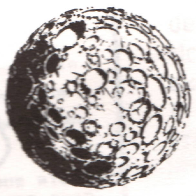
The second mistake was thinking that the problem of accomodation could be dealt with separately to all the other problems faced by refugees. It was assumed that other groups and networks would step in and take over all the social work stuff, but the first refugee showed that it wasn't so easy, and that being in a strange country with a strange language makes it pretty damned hard to do anything for yourself, apart from whatever stresses and depression you might bring with. Anyway, a few people found themselves taking on a whole lot of social work, and running around finding groups that might be able to help out.

After three weeks the centre was evicted and plans to move on to a new place immediately were postponed to give time to work out what was actually needed next, and because the squat centre, where some of those involved lived and which was generally used as a base, was also being evicted. But work continued, with a local church network and community groups, sorting out places for people to stay as well as working on other aspects of the struggle, and support for those refugees who found their way to the network. The Refugee Council, who had been desperately calling for churches to make space available, stopped referring refugees to the church network because of their connection with ARCH, but the churches remained supportive, and a house was eventually opened up, which is now housing a number of refugees, and one non-refugee for support.

Many contacts were made, and networks are being organised around London to try to open up houses and centres in other areas, but it isn't easy.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

This benefit withdrawl is the first stage of a series of attacks on refugees, with the Asylum Bill creating fast-track refusals, appeals that can only be made after returning to the fears of the fleed country, passport checks for black workers...... and the Housing Bill removing the right to housing for asylum seekers. In a way this first attack is jumping the gun because councils do still have the duty to house refugees as vulnerable people, despite knowing they won't get housing benefit, and would then have to evict them for non-payment. This is why the councils complained, and the government offered to pay 80% of the costs (above a certain amount).



So what do we do about it.? Should we be acting as social workers to cover for what the government has withdrawn? No, we should be trying to make sure that others have access to what we do, while we fight for more. But we do open up space for ourselves, help each other get by in our own little scenes, and not call it social work.

One of the vague ideas behind ARCH was that it would take off and become autonomous, that space would be created for refugees to take up their own fight. It hasn't happened yet, partly because of the low numbers involved so far, and because it will always be easier for activists, who will always have to be around, to give support. The skills are out there, to find and provide what's needed, if we can bring them together.

This isn't just another benefit attack to be tagged on to our fight against the JSA. It's not just another attack on housing adding to homelessness. It's an attack on the ability of ordinary people like us to escape unbarable conditions created by the global (but still hierarchical) squeeze on our conditions, by local states' attacks on behalf of global, asylum seeking capital. If money is going to zap around the world looking for cheaper labour and better investments, it can't allow us to wander off looking for higher wages and better conditions. At best we'll be allowed to be guestworkers, with our families and the costs of reproduction left behind, and with no rights to settle, organise.....

This is an attack on London and its beautiful cosmopolitan mix of cultures and people, an attack on the communities here and on our history of refuge and struggle. In a way its a last chance for us to act locally and globally at the same time, to carry out direct actions that make us part of the world instead of just acting against increasingly localised political structures, with occasional solidarity actions to protest at the nastiness of other states. It is also a chance for us (the vast majority of ContraFlow readers, and writers) to break of our ghetto of our European "alternative" scene, and discover the world that is collected together in our cities. If the world can no longer come to London........ I'm going to have to leave.

To get involved in ARCH etc, contact Squash, who are trying to coordinate a network across the city, and maybe even outside, on 0171 226 8938, or at 2 St Pauls Road, London N1 2QN.

FREE THE KINGS X TWO

The stabbing to death of Richard Everitt in Somers Town was a tragedy, but so was the racist reaction it unleashed. The media claimed that he was 'killed because he was whit (while of course the deaths of black people never make the front page, rarely any page and that the local Bengali youth were violent racists, the cops targeted every Asian person in the area, even grilling those who came to them to report racist attacks, and of course the BNP came along to stir things up.

Badrul Miah and Showkat Akbar have now been convicted of the murder, because they fitted the media version of events, not the facts. Even the cops had changed their line and decided that the killing was a mistake, and that the target had been another white boy who had stolen some jewellery and a mobile phone. But the Prosecution simply claimed that it was a racist murder, that Badrul and Showkat were Bengali and racist against whites, and would stab any white boy, and that was enough. Badrul was convicted of 'joint enterprise' in the murder, meaning that he didn't do it, but that he might have had something or other to do with it, like being a Bengali in Somers Town at the time.

For more information, contact the Free the Kings X Two Campaign on 0171 388 3259

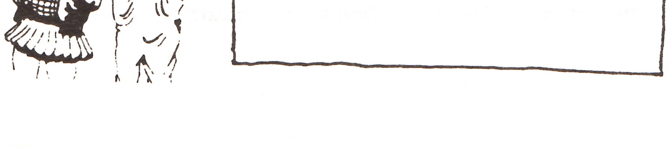
SPACE INVADERS

On May 5th a large derelict site in London will be taken over, to build a sustainable village, with gardens, farms and community project the first week will be used as a demonstration project; after that the land will be left to the people who want to live there.
Coaches leave from 190 Shepherds Bush Road W6 at 10am on Sunday 5th May. Please bring tools, building materials, compost, seeds, food, sleeping bags, tents etc. The site will be near public transport. Or call 01865 722016 from noon on the 5th to find out where it is and come along by yourselves.

HACKNEY ANARCHY WEEK

"ten days that shook my brain" hit Hackney on May 24th, so far including;
GIGS; Alternative TV at Chats Palace on the 24th, plus other acoustic and punk events, PARTIES POETRY, COMEDY & ART, FILM & VIDEO; including Themroc + Ghosts of the Civil Dead, Ken Loach in person plus films, HHH videos, exploding cinema, WORKSHOPS, DISCUSSIONS AND RALLIES; including a reclaim the streets, a critical mass, a moonlit rally and a picnic plus loads of full-on debates, PLUS football (anti-fascist 8 a side, and 3-sided, courtesy of the London Psychogeographical Association) small press fair, scavenger hunt, pirate radio, daily vegan squat cafe, and whatever you want organise. See Calendar for details. So far we haven't been informed by Stokey cops what their contribution to the event will be, but we're sure it'll be something spectacul and anarchic.

For up to date info as it comes together (full program due out May 1st) and to get involved, contac BM Active, London WC1N 3XX, or e-mail; anarchy@phreak.intermedia.co.uk
See you there.


inside; - benefit attax, calendar, resistance........

WE GOTTA GET PAID

Although the official start of the Job Seekers Allowance has been put off till October, the number of offices running 'pilot' schemes, or similar 'actively signing' schemes, means its pretty much here, and we've got to do something about it.

On April 8th there was a March through London organised by London against the JSA, followed by a brief occupation of a Department of Enjoyment head office (brief cos the occupiers slipped out the back, leaving the cops wandering around looking for them) and impromptu lobbing of parliament.

In some local areas there has been leafleting and advice work, and some work with staff to discourage them from carrying out the attack, but this has been patchy, and staff are under pressure from increasing targets.

WHAT THE JSA MEANS

* Unemployment Benefit cut from 12 to 6 months, and reduced for under 25s. This is despite those in paid work having to make more contributions for this "privelege".
* Increased pressure on claimants to accept crap jobs and schemes, or whatever the staff think will help getting a job (like losing your dreads), or lose all your benefit (instead of the current 60%).
* Staff cuts of up to 30% and increased pressure, targets, abuse and assault for those still "lucky" enough to have a job there.
* More intense competition for jobs, forcing down wages, security and conditions.

WHAT TO DO

The JSA increases the arbitrary nature of claiming benefits, so its no longer possible to produce a simple standard example of how to fill in the forms. Its all going to depend a hell of alot more on the person interviewing you and how they think, but its always possible to stand up to them as long as you don't come out and refuse everything they 'offer'. Most appeals under the current rules have been succesful, but how it might work under the JSA we've yet to see, and anyway, how're we supposed to live while waiting?

There's going to have to be pressure on staff, particularly those most prone to hassling us (people sent on JobPlan and Restart courses often find they've been sent by the same person). But we need to be able to do it in a mass, going down the office together, making a fuss, involving the other claimants there, demanding to see the manager. It's always an idea to take a mate with to interviews, for support and as a witness, but if that doesn't work, go back with more!

WE WANT THE WORLD

Its not enough to fight the JSA. Its like saying that things were OK before and we want to just be left alone, which might be OK for those few who manage to get by through having places to go, friends all in the same situation and the added bonus of meetings and demos for entertainment. For most people the existing levels of benefit and hassle are simply unbearable, particularly with housing benefit being whittled away. Many claimants will be losing out from the new regulations, which cut housing benefit according to local averagesbased on the assumption that housing benefit doesn't exist! Already increasing numbers are having to fork out money from their dole to subsidise their rent.

In most parts of London there are no longer places to go and organise, to help each other get what we can, let alone to fight to get more. people are being forced off benefits already, and isolated, people will just give up and take whatever jobs there are, even if they're worse off. The hassle of signing on and living in poverty are so much work now, defending this is like we're back in the 80s, fighting to defend jobs that people were quite happy to get rid of.

Some people want jobs, because they want to do something, to feel part of a slightly more real world, to have access to other people and interesting technology, and of course to a reasonable amount of money. Fighting for a decent level of benefits and services so that people can get these things without having to sell themselves could actually get somewhere, get people together, but it doesn't look like the state is going to pay up. Its true that a good fight put up by one sector of our class can give strength to others, but that means properly standing up for ourselves, together, whenever someone is hassled, and we need a wider vision that includes our needs for good food, nice clothes, sound systems, computers.... as well as for the time and freedom to do enjoy them and each other.

COUNCIL GRASS LINES

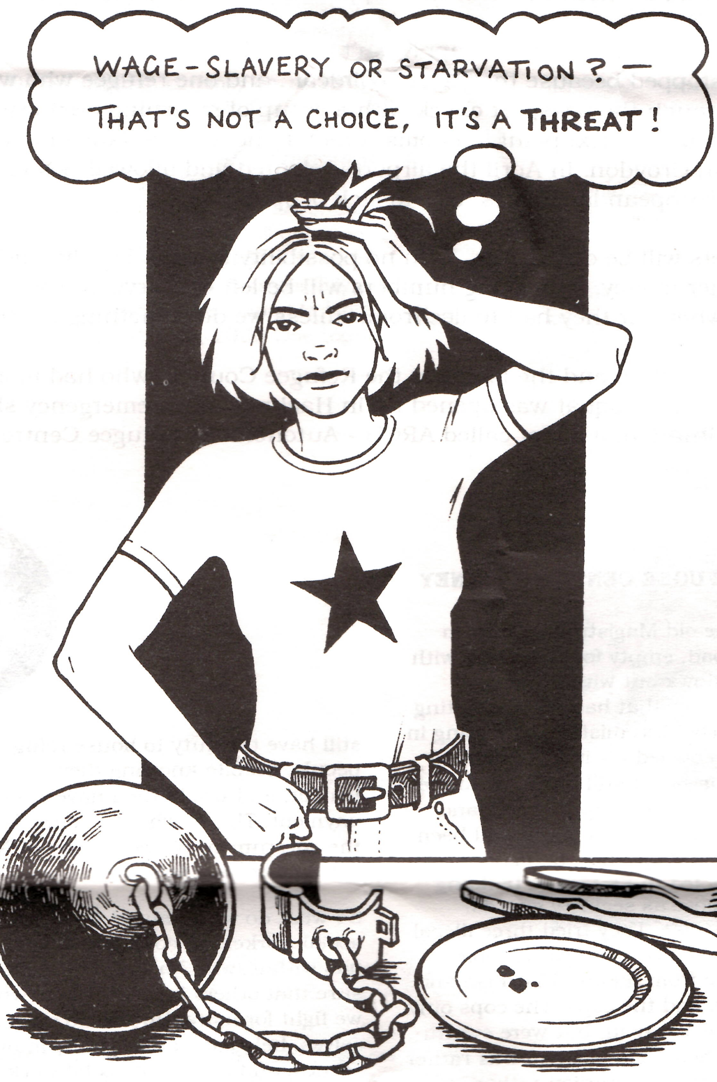
Local Authorities everywhere have been setting up phone lines for people to grass up people they think might be claiming more than they should do. This has been set up under pressure from central government who have set targets for councils to cut housing benefit fraud, with financial penalties if they don't, and given them a bit of extra cash for the purpose. How the government knows how much 'fraud' there is in each borough is rather questionable, so its basicly another way to penalise those councils they don't like.
The phone numbers are being plastered on lamposts and buses everywhere. Give them a call and tell them that Peter Lilley is the only benefit fraud you know, or something more imaginative, but maybe not from your own phone!

I LIKED CONTRAFLOW SO MUCH I BOUGHT THE COMPANY

You've heard it all before, but we need your money. This thing takes around £300 to produce and distribute each time. we've been getting donations in, which is great but not enough to keep going. The real problem is that we're too busy producing this and doing all our other activities to get together benefits and stuff like that which would make the difference. So if anyone's got the time and contacts to help out, get in touch.

As well as cash, we still need your dates, events, news, comments, cartoons and energy. Why not get involved and liven up our meetings a bit? We need new faces, people with interests and involvement that we don't cover (and who might be interested in the bits of post we don't know what to do with)..... people who want to pick up and spread round information and ideas.

Anyway, we are going to continue, and the next issue will hit the streets on July 1st so get stuff into us by a couple of weeks before. We must be mad, but we believe in it, and if you do, join in. Drop us a line and we'll arange a meet.

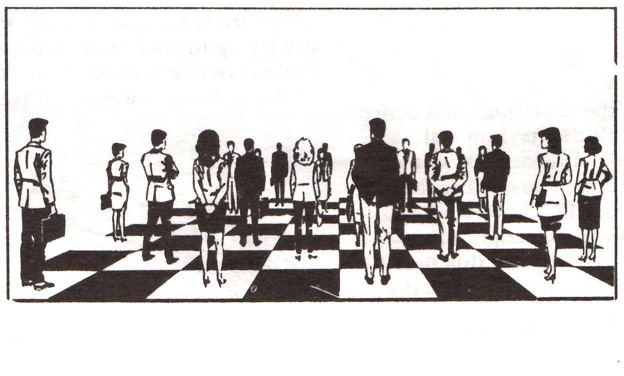

WAGE-SLAVERY OR STARVATION? — THAT'S NOT A CHOICE, IT'S A THREAT!
JON '96

THE MAN WHO SPOKE UP

Its the 1930s, outside a dole office in London

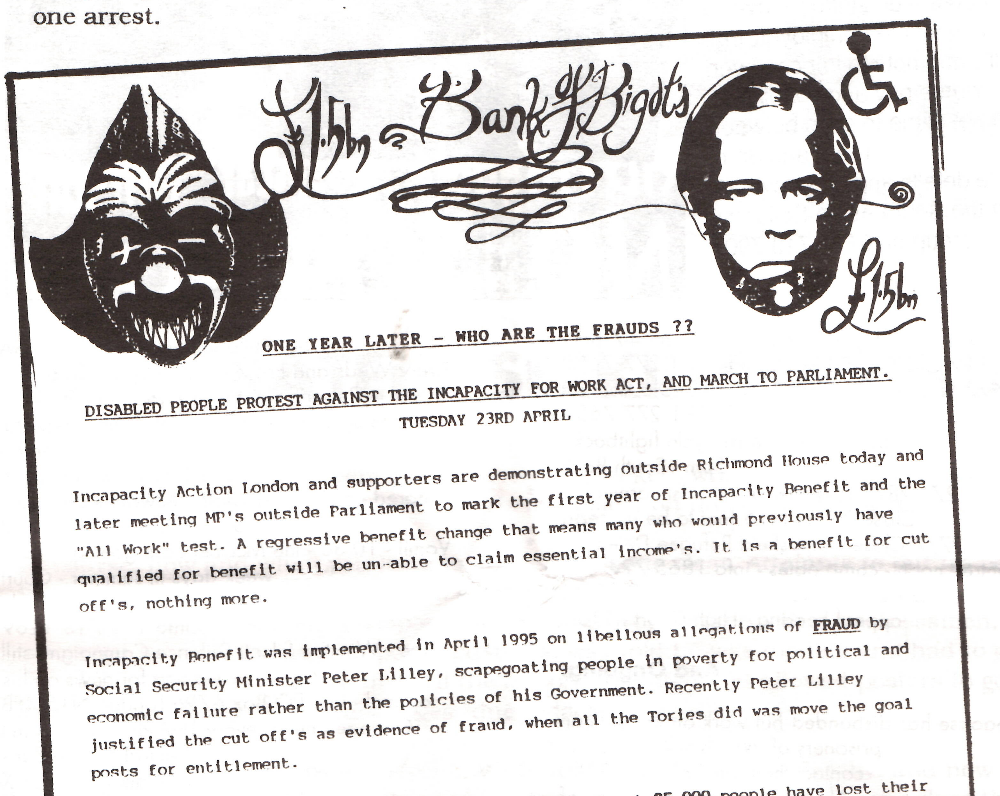
"If they offered you a job at thirty-five bob a week, you'd 'ave to take it, mate." Like most defeated types, he seemed to experience a somber satisfaction in emphasising how all-powerful "they" (the authorities) were.
The Italian became excited. "Not-a-tall!" he excliamed. "Not-a-tall! Dey give me a job 'ere de odder day - you know 'ow moch?- forty-fife bob a wik in de West En'.I no take it. Nop! De clack 'e say to me, 'Well, if you'd radder stay on de dole.' I say 'No,' I say, 'excuse me, if you was on de dole, you no talk dat way. I want a job - yes! But I want I should be able to live on it,' I say. 'You try live on forty-fife shillin's wages a wik, an' twelf shillin's fares every wik to pay, as well. A married man wi' two kids.'"
The Italian shrugged his shoulders and smmiled. "Dat clack, 'e no say not'ing else - you bet."
There was a brief controversy about whether the Labour Exchange could compel a man to accept a job at a low wage. In the end the aging pessimists reluctantly accepted the conclusion that the authorities had no power to compel anyone to take a job at a wage below the Trade Union rate.The Italian summed matters up briefly.
"You got to speak opp for you-self in dis place - or else -" He smiled and shrugged his shoulders expressively.
"Take me f'r instance," he went on. "De odder day de clack 'e give me a green card. ''Ere y'are, ma boy,''e say, 'dere's a job for you.'
"A job? OK So I go after de job.
"Well, from 'ere I 'as to go to King's Cross Labour Exchange. Fares, you onnerstand. From King's Cross dey tells me, 'Go to nomber so-and-so Golden Square.' You onnerstand?-more fares. When I get d'ere I finds it is a tailoring fact'ry. Me, I'm an up'olsterer. I looks round - maybe is an up'olsterer on anodder floor. But, no. Is only a tailoring fact'ry. "Well, I sees de guv'nor, an' I shows 'im de green card. 'E say: 'I no want up'olsterers 'ere. What for I should want up'olsterers?'
"Well, I come back to de Labour Exchange 'ere, an' I sees de clack. I played 'ell.
"'What for you send a man all over London for job which ain't dere?' I say.
"'It was on de list,' 'e say.
"'I don' give a damn,' I say, 'what for you send a man all over London for job which ain't dere?' I say.
"'Sorry, ole boy,' e' say, 'we can't 'elp it.'
"'All right,' I say, 'I'll see de manager.'
"Well, in de end I gets to see de manager. I played 'ell. 'What about my expense?' I say.
"'Well,' 'e say, ''ow much your expense?'
"'Two an' nine,' I say.
"'What!' 'e say. 'Two an' nine! No cost you two an'nine to go after dat job,' 'e say. 'Tell me anodder,' 'e say.
"'Sure it cost me two 'an nine,' I told 'im, 'Don't I 'ave to eat?' "
We all laughed.
" Sure. 'Don't I 'ave to eat?' I told 'im. 'A man t'inks 'e's goin' to get a job, so 'e goes 'an 'as a meal,' I say. 'To get 'is strn't,' I say. 'If 'e no t'ink 'e's goin' to get a job, 'e no 'ave de meal. So my expense is two an' nine.' I keeps playin' 'ell, I tell you.
"Well in de end, de manager 'e say, 'We'll see what we can do. come tomorrow' 'e say. 'I no promise not'ing, you onnerstand,' 'e say.
"Well, de next day I go to de Labour Exchange, an' I sees de manager again. An' 'e gives me de two an' nine."
Gasps of amazement, and chuckles of amusement greeted the conclusion of this yarn. All had known the infuriating experience of wasting some of scant store of money on running after jobs that had proved to have no existence. We were familiar with the experience of spending money on a meal because of over-confidence about a job that didn't materialise. But here was the first man we had known to get something like his own back.
"Yeh. 'E give me de two an' nine.
"'We got it from de guv'nor of de place,' 'e say. 'An' now you no bodder me no more. Some of you guys t'ink we 'ave to keep you,' 'e says.
"'Sure you 'ave to keep us,' I say. 'Ain't dat your job?'"
It was impossible not to laugh at the Italian's impudent expression.
"'You clear out,' 'e say, 'some of you guys t'ink dis place is a club,' 'e say.
"'Sure is a club,' I say. 'What for we pay our subscriptions? You no treat me more polite, I resign,' I say."
The one-time staid and dejected ageing men were laughing now as they had probably not laughed for a long time in the Labour Exchange queue. One of them wiped the tears from his eyes.
"'You got any more jobs like dat one for me to go after?' I say. 'Me always ready to oblige - at two an' ninepence a time.'
"'You clear out,' 'e say. 'You talk too much.'
"'Well,' I say, 'if I no talk, I no get my two an' nine.'"
A policeman appeared from inside the Exchange, and gave the signal. The crowd began to surge towards the entrance. In the turmoil the Italian turned towards us again. He was still talking.
"You got to speak opp for you-self in dis place - or else - "He smiled, and shrugged his shoulders expressively.

The above comes from "What Nobody Told The Foreman" by Max Cohen, published 1953 by the People's Books Co-op



DSS SPLATTED

On April 23rd, Richmond House, the DSS HQ was splatted with red paint during a demo to mark the first anniversary of the hated Incapacity for work Act. There was one arrest.


£1.5bn
Bank of Bigots
£1.5bn

ONE YEAR LATER - WHO ARE THE FRAUDS ??

DISABLED PEOPLE PROTEST AGAINST THE INCAPACITY FOR WORK ACT, AND MARCH TO PARLIAMENT.

TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

Incapacity Action London and supporters are demonstrating outside Richmond House today and later meeting MP's outside Parliament to mark the first year of Incapacity Benefit and the "All Work" test. A regressive benefit change that means many who would previously have qualified for benefit will be un-able to claim essential income's. It is a benefit for cut off's, nothing more.

Incapacity Benefit was implemented in April 1995 on libellous allegations of **FRAUD** by Social Security Minister Peter Lilley, scapegoating people in poverty for political and economic failure rather than the policies of his Government. Recently Peter Lilley justified the cut off's as evidence of fraud, when all the Tories did was move the goal posts for entitlement.

Since Incapacity Benefit was imposed in April 1995, almost 85.000 people have lost their income's through failing the "All Work" test, some are left with **NOTHING TO LIVE ON**. The Department (DSS) recently produced their own figures which concluded that only 289 people had found employment through this process. The Government plans to remove **HALF A MILLION** people in total from benefit over the next two years.

The Government are privatising testing for Incapacity Benefit and in future rights to benefit will be decided by Multi National Insurance Companies, operating according to Market Forces and for Profit. This also removes any political responsibility for poverty and discrimination.

The Government's Disability Discrimination Act 1995 actually legalises discrimination in employment and by service providers. Changes in the Access to Work Scheme also make the situation far worse for Disabled People. The only **FRAUDS** are Peter Lilley and the Tories.

DON"T BE PUSHED INTO ACCEPTING LESS MONEY, OR NONE AT ALL. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS TO BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT, CONTACT: INCAPACITY ACTION LONDON, 65 CASIMIR ROAD, LONDON, E5 9NU. OR PHONE: 0181 520 4582. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL.

Incapacity Action are also planning to picket the AGM of the British Medical Association, to pressure them into taking a stand against the act.

DON'T MOAN - MAKE YOUR OWN

"Haringey Solidarity Group is willing to give support and advice to anyone who is interested in setting up their own local 'solidarity group'.

We grew out of the Haringey Anti-Poll Tax Union and have been in existence since 1991. We are a diverse group of people with different political experiences (eg community activists, environmental activists, trade unionists). However we are united by common aims; we want to get more involved beyond single issue campaigns while at the same time we want to steer clear of most left-wing political parties with their 'top-down' approach to politics. Basically, we all believe that the way to get change is not by waiting for so-called leaders to do things for us, but by taking things into our own hands and getting organised.

We support the principles of self-organisation, mutual aid and direct action. As well as initiating our own campaigns we provide solidarity to various community and workplace struggles with the aim of helping, rather than hindering, the ability of these groups to run things for themsleves. Whenever possible we seek to link up different working class struggles with the aim of building a wider network of communication and solidarity.

If there is anyone out there who would like to get involved in a local group based on these ideas we would like to hear from you. we can provide information about similar groups throughout the country and we are willing to give advice and support to anyone who wants to set up their own local group."

Contact us at HSG, PO Box 2474, London N8 or leave a message on 0181-802-9804

Kings Cross Womens Centre Evicted

On March 25th the Kings Cross Womens Centre was evicted by the landlords, Community Housing Association (CHA) after many years of being a base for numerous struggles. The centre housed the Campaign against the Child Support Act, Women Against Rape, Black Women for Wages for Housework, English Collective of Prostitutes, Wages Due Lesbians, Legal Action for Women, and many others.

The centre was evicted after Camden Council sold the premises to CHA, without any consultation with the tenants, and the rent was massively increased. The Centre is currently operating from the nearby Tonbridge Club, and is trying to get money off Camden Council for a new centre, though the decision has now been put off till June. They can still be contacted at PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU or on 0171 624 3577 (phone) 0181 933 4948(fax).

UNEMPLOYED CENTRE STILL OCCUPIED

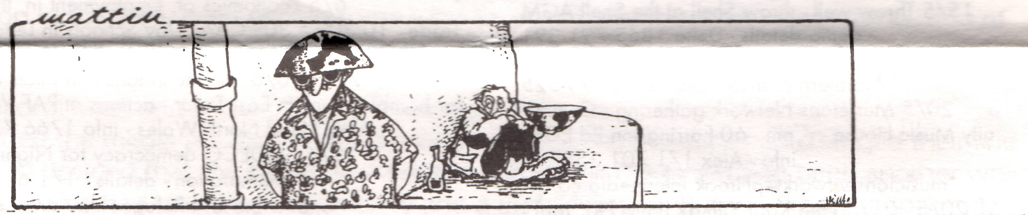
The Jan Rebane Centre in Thornton Street, Brixton is still running a year after management tried to close it down due to the council cutting off funding. The centre is open 10-5 Monday to Friday, Lambeth Unemployed Action Group meet there every other Wednesday at 5.30 pm and there is a cheap vegetarian cafe run by Friends of Move every Wednesday and Friday from 7pm.

WHERE THERE'S MUCK, THERE'S McBrass

The McLibel trial, now scheduled to last until the end of this year, is currently listening to evidence on McDonald's connections to rainforest destruction. Ray Cesca (McDonald's Director of Global Purchasing) said in court that "McDonalds opened the first of its restaurants in Costa Rica in 1970" and that meat supplied to them since that time "comes from ranches which were deforested in the 1950s and early 1960s." The Sales Director of the meat plant supplying McDonald's Costa Rican stores, stated in a filmed interview in 1984 (shown in court): "We export meat to the US, 70% of the meat goes to food production outlets such as McDonald's."

In Brazil, McDonald's were supplied at one time by a meat plant at Cuiba which is inside the official Amazon region and bordering deforested rainforest areas devastated by cattle ranching. Howard Lyman, a fourth generation cattle rancher from Montana (USA), now an environmentalist, recently testified for the Defence on the effectes of cattle ranching on the environment and the animals.

Check out McSpotlight, an on-line library and campaigning tool, which makes available across the globe everything that McDonald's don't want the public to know - http://www.mcspotlight.org/



From the European Counter Network

Action against gentrification in Berlin - "Klasse gegen Klasse"

According to police reports, there were several attacks on Monday - a bomb exploded outside the home of a Free University law professor and three expensive cars parked in the area went up in flames.

The group "Klasse gegen Klasse" [Class Against Class - KGK] has since claimed responsibility for these attacks. There was no danger to human life, according the group's communique. The nine-page text, which explained the motive and background to the actions, was entitled "The Sweet Dreams Of A Class Enemy And His Frightened Awakening".

The professor had come into the group's sights for evidently advocating an end to wage increases for workers. The action was linked to the Berlin Senate's present budget reduction proposals and the accompanying protest demonstrations against cuts in social spending.

The fact that the cars, parked near to the area where the professor lived, all belonged to people involved in the construction industry seems to have been a coincidence.

KGK has taken about 50 actions, although nothing had been heard from them in about a year. The group is believed to be based in Kreuzberg. Despite heavy investigations by police and the State Office for the Protection of the Constitution (LfV), the group remains a mystery. Since 1992, its mission has been to use various means to destroy property belogning to rich people, including fancy shops and bars. (Source: Neues Deutschland, March 30, 1996)

Two Berlin Squats Evicted

On Tuesday, March 26, a squatted house in the East Berlin neighborhood of Friedrichshein was evicted by riot police. The house, known as the "Pali", had been squatted for over five years. The following morning, another house in East Berlin, the "Kleine Hamburger", was also evicted by massive numbers of riot police and two other houses around the corner were searched and damaged. About a dozen people were arrested.

These two evictions seem to have been ordered by Berlin's new interior minister Jorg Schonbohm, a former general who has confidently stated that "there will be no more squats in Berlin when I leave office" and that his ministry will under no circumstances tolerate "law-free zones to exist in this city".

Resistance to the evictions in Berlin was light at first. Two demonstrations attracted less than 300 people, but a series of small street blockades and attacks on shops in various Berlin neighbuorhoods has kept the issue in the local media.

Want this and more?

You don't need a modem to join in the ECN project - we get good information in English and German - particularly on Kurdistan, Ireland, USA, the Basque Country and Germany - subjects range from reproductive rights to prisoners' struggles ... but that's not all. To access this, send C-flow a 3.5 inch PC floppy with return postage and a donation, say what you're interested in [and language choice, we'll down load it and mail you back. Groups who want to join this network [with or without a modem] should write for more information.

Black Autonomy Appeal for E

This appeal is for funds to continue publishing Black Autonomy, A Newspaper of Anarchism and Black Revolution.

For those not familiar with the paper, we cover stories relevant to African American workers from a revolutionary, anti-authoritarian perspective.

We are also grassroots activists in the traditions of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Black Panther Party (BPP). We are both journalists and activists. We are affiliated with Black-american anarchist and former political prisoner Lorenzo Komboa Ervin who is currently on a speaking tour of Europe.

We are seeking new subscribers ($10/US for 6 issues, $100/US for life) and regular sustainers (people who donate funds or equipment on a regular or semi-regular basis). We figure that if the liberals andfascists do it, why not us.

email me at: bd982@scn.org or write to: Black Autonomy 323 Broadway Ave E #914 Seattle, WA 98102 USA.

VIVA
ZAPATA
L.P

Information On CHIAPAS

Facilitators: Arturo Grunstein<grunst@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx> and Nicole Wolf <wolf@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx>. Members: ~650. Languages: Spanish and English.

CHIAPAS-L is an open, unmoderated discussion list concerning the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico and its ongoing status.

New papers on the subject are welcome. Press releases are also covered. This list is the premier source of information on the Chiapas Situation.Archives of CHIAPAS-L mail items are kept in monthly files.

You may obtain a list of files in the archives by sending the command: index CHIAPAS-L in the BODY of e-mail to: "majordomo@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx"

To subscribe, send the command

Subscribe yourself (or <address> if specified) to the named <list>

If you have any questions or problems, please contact "Majordomo-Owner@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx".

Example: Subscribe Chiapas-L e-mailaddress in the BODY of a mail message to "majordomo@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx"Post

Messages to: Chiapas-l@profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx

The CHIAPAS list is archived at: gopher profmexis.dgsca.unam.mx path: foros locales/Chiapas or path: foros locales/Mexico94 (for mexico news)

DEATH: THE POOR'S 'PREROGATIVE'?

Written 3/13/96 by Mumia Abu-Jamal

"That's what 'capital punishment' really means - those that ain't got the capital, get the punishment" - old saying

Once again we see the inherent truths that lie in the proverbs of the poor.

That old saying echoed when it was recently announced that the District Attorney of Delaware County, Patrick Meehan, would 'not' seek the death penalty in the case of John E. DuPont, the wealthy corporate hei charged with the shooting death of Olympic champion David Schultz, in late January. The Delaware Co. D.A.'s office said no aggravated circumstance justifying the death sentence existed!

Could it be that DuPont's personal wealth, estimated at over $400 million, was a factor?

In one fell swoop, the state insured that while millionaires may be murderers, they are not eligible for that preserve of the poor, America's death row.

As the case of O.J. Simpson showed us, the state is very selective in who it chooses to include in its macabre club of death. O.J., a 'bona fide celebrity, corporate pitchman, sports legend, and millionaire, was deemed, even though a suspect in a double- murder, not "fit" for a death sentence

So, whether or not one is of the opinion that Mr. Simpson was eithe innocent or guilty, the point remains that before the trial actually began, the D.A. of Los Angeles decided - no death penalty for O.J.! Millionaires need not apply.

As it was for Mr. Simpson, so it was for Mr. DuPont. Simpson' wealth, compared to DuPont's, makes him look like a pauper. As for DuPont consider, if you will, the incredible spectacle of the D.A., with all the identica facts, announcing he (or she) would *not* be seeking the death penalty, i DuPont was 'the victim'.

I'm sure we can all agree that would be impossible.

Any poor man who slays a wealthy man will have the weight of th system fall on him like a ton of bricks; for a wealthy man, however, who find himself charged with killing a poor man, the system becomes user-friendly

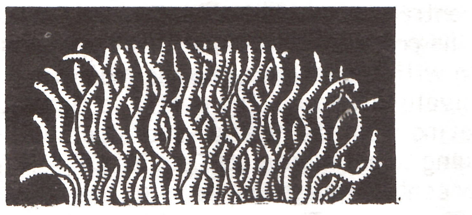
Why should this be so? It's because the system serves the interest of the wealth - it is 'their' system! In essence, when a poor person come before the court s/he faces two charges: the 'offense'; and being poor.

I am not suggesting that Mr. DuPont, or anyone else, for that matte should be sentenced to death. I am just noting how and why the deat sentence is reserved for some, and off limits to others.

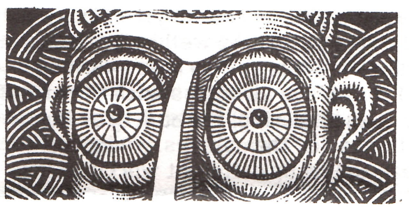
++++ stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal ++++
++++ if you agree copy these lines to your sig ++++
++++ see http://www.xs4all.nl/~tank/spg-l/sigaction.htm ++++

Calendar

Ok and here's the Contraflow calendar ready to go - don't forget if your event isn't here it's because you didn't tell us - so make sure you do! [Deadline for next 'flow 25/6/96]



* 1/5 May Day March - Noon - Finsbury Pk - strike call made by T+G Textiles branch - all welcome
and ... British Aerospace AGM - 9am - QE II Centre Westminster - info 171 281 0297
* 3/5 Murders in Nursing Homes picket - 1pm - Coroners Ct Southwark- info Direct Action Network - 181 889 1361
and ... Class War benefit for Newbury with iA÷waska and Ed Jam - 8 - 12 - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd cnr Arbutus St. E8 - £ 3/2
* 5/5 onwards Land Occupation and sustainable village - somewhere in London - info "Land is Ours" 1865 722 016
and .. Newham Monitoring Project AGM - 2 - 6 pm - Forest Gate Youth and Community Centre - 1 Woodford Rd E7
* 6/5 Mayday [not!] 96 ... or at least the version provided by the official union movement -12 - 8 - Clapham Common - booze and free bands
* 8/5 Justice for Brian Douglas Vigil - 11 - 12.30 - Kennington Police Station - Info JBDC 0973 491 485
* 9/5 Planning meeting of East London Trade Unionists Against Fascism - 7.30 - Davenant Centre Whitechapel Rd - org.ed by Newham UNISON, Tower Hamlets Trades Council et al
* 10/5 Legal Defence and Monitoring Group and Anarchist Black Cross benefit with Blaggers ITA, Bender and more - 8 - 12 pm - Chats Palace Brooksby's Walk E9 - £ 5/3
* 13/5 Free Mumia Abu Jamal - Justice for Move -12 - 2 - picket of US Embassy in commemoration of Philadelphia Massacre 1985
and ... Free Malcolm Kennedy - 6 - 7 pm - picket of Hammersmith Police Station
* 15/5 Throw well - throw Shell at the Shell AGM - demo details - Delta 1865 791 391
* 15/5 - 19/5 Teknival multicultural free festival - Northern France - info 181 959 7525
* 20/5 Musicians Network gathering - Community Music House - 7 pm - 60 Farringdon Rd EC1 - info - Alex 171 701 3587 or "musiciansnetwork@pHreak.intermedia.co.uk"
* 20/5 - 21/5 Free Kani Yilmaz [Euro PKK rep] - Appeal Hearing at High Court - Picket throughout - info KSC 171 250 1315
* 21/5 Asylum Bill - public meeting by Haringey Solidarity Group - 7 pm - West Indian Cultural Centre Clarendon Rd N8 - info 181 802 9804
* 23/5 Anarchism and the Spanish Civil War - Colin Roach Centre Educational - for info call 181 533 7111
and ... Haringey Solidarity Group meeting - 8 pm - Salisbury Arms - Green Lanes and St Anne's Rd N15 - info 181 802 9804
h@w 24/5 - 2/6 Hackney @ Week [h@w] - for up to date details - h@w, BM Active, London WC1N 3XX, "anarchy@pHreak.intermedia.co.uk", a wwweb site [address yet to be announced] or just get on a bus and look out for things!
and ... art shows at Barnabas Church Hall Homerton High St E9, Stoke Newington Library N16 and The Factory 8 Shelford Pl. N16
and ... workshops on fighting multinationals, personal / political change, anti election alliances housing, meeting facilitation, circus skills, autonomous communities in space [?*!] and the anarcho trivia quiz - times and venues to be announced
h@w 24/5 h@w launch party with Alternative TV, S+M performance art etc- evening - Chats Palace - Brooksby's Walk E9
* 25/5 Close Campsfield Refugee Detention Centre - noon - camp gates - info 1865 724 452
h@w 25/5 football tournament - afternoon
and ... h@w dub sound system party - evening - The Factory 8 Shelford Pl. N16
h@w 26/6 Themroc and Ghosts of the Civil Dead etc Films - 4.15 - 8pm - Rio Cinema - 107 Kingsland High Street E8
and ... Bad Attitude benefit gig - evening - The Factory 8 Shelford Pl. N16
and ... Visions of Poesy anarcho poetry relaunch - evening - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd and Arbutus St E8
* 27/5 Kingston Green Fair
h@w 27/5 Bookfair - 1-6 - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
and ... Farrago poetry slam - evening - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
h@w 28/5 1926 Committee and Dole Claimers - acoustic folk - evening - Acton Arms Kingsland Rd and Arbutus St E8
and ... Survivors poetry and music- evening - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
* 29/5 Southwark Claimants Union - 4-7 pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
h@w 29/5 Comedy Night [jokes in a revolutionary movement - good heavens!]- evening - with Tony Allen, Mr Social Control, Mark Telly, Col Fits - Chats Palace - Brooksby's Walk E9
* 30/5 Ship video night - 7pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
and ... Freedom Network benefit - the Rocket Holloway Rd - line up TBC but cheap beer - ú 4/3
h@w 30/5 Anarchism and Mental Health - afternoon - workshop - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
and ... Organising in the Education Industry - 6 pm - workshop - Barnabas Hall
and ... Anarchism in Turkey and anarcho views of struggle in Turkey and Kurdistan - 7.30 - workshop - Barnabas Hall - Homerton High St E9
and ... "Land and Freedom" and "Riff Raff" with director Ken Loach - evening - Rio Cinema - 107 Kingsland High Street E8
* 31/5 Critical Mass cycle fightback - 5pm - South Bank



June already?

* all June ... Faslane Peace Camp invites all to come and help prepare for demo week end in Mid June - lots of building and plumbing work - info 1436 820 901
and ... the Reclaim the Streets Street party planned for mid July won't happen unless musos, performers, sound systems, speakers etc etc don't get in contact with them now on 171 281 4621
and ...post Eviction Fund Raisers for the Kings Cross Women's Centre planned for June and July - call 171 624 3577 or write PO Box 287 NW6 5QU for info and support
* 1/6 Walk to Stonehenge ... or at least have a picnic with those who will - noon - 3 - Battersea Park Peace Pagoda
h@w 1/6 Hackney Critical Mass - noon [look for the traffic jam!]
and ... Punx picnic - afternoon - Clissold Park N16
and ... Punk gig - evening - Albion Pub - Albion Rd N16
and ... Free rave - info 181 959 7525
h@w 2/6 HHH Video Night - 7pm - Samuel Pepys - Mare St. E8
* 3/6 Free Malcolm Kennedy - 6 - 7 pm - picket of Hammersmith Police Station
* 6/6 Economics of, Employment in, the Arms Trade - 10.30 - 5.30 - CAAT Day Schools in Leeds - free / donation- for transport and info 171 281 0297
* 7/6 - 10/6 See the Indonesian pilots training for bombing runs in East Timor - actions at RAF Valley nr Holy Head North Wales - info 1766 771 100
* 12/6 NADECO democracy for Nigeria commemoration - details - 171 627 1299
and ... pre UN Refugee day street theatre - noon - Oxford Town Centre - info 1865 724 452
and 12/6-18/6 Earth First Summer Gathering somewhere in North Wales - info 171 249 9114
* 14/6 - 16/6 Demonstrations in Bury, Lancashire vs Minister for Disabled - part of "Kick em in the Marginals" anti Tory campaign by DAN - two more planned over summer in Cardiff and the Valleys [19-20/6] and Derbyshire [19-20/7] - info Direct Action Network - 181 889 1361
and ... Trash Trident actions at Faslane peace camp's 14th birthday - also inviting people to contact them to prepare to resist their eviction by their new council - info 1436 820 901, transport from London 171 607 2302
* 15/6 International Refugees Day - info for actions 0973 632 827
* 17/6 Musicians Network gathering - Community Music House - 7 pm - 60 Farringdon Rd EC1 - info - cf 20/5
* 19/6 Free Malcolm Kennedy - Justice for Patsy Quinn - 7.30 - Public Meeting with INQUEST, Gareth Pierce, Ben Emerson Conway Hall - Red Lion Sq - for info call 181 533 7111
* 20/6 Haringey Solidarity Group meeting - 8 pm - cf 23/5
* 26/6 Southwark Claimants Union - 4-7 pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
* 27/6 Education- Colin Roach Centre Educational - for info call 181 533 7111
and ... Ship video night - 7pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
* 28/6 Critical Mass cycle fightback - 5pm - South Bank
* 29/6 Close Campsfield Refugee Detention Centre - noon - camp gates - info 1865 724 452

July and its time to get high

* 1/7 Free Malcolm Kennedy - 9 am - picket in support of appeal hearing - High Court - for info call 181 533 7111
* 10/7 Robin Wood and Dave Hammond face trial - Lewis Crown Ct - Sussex
* 13/7 Reclaim the Streets Party - info 171 281 4621

DAILY

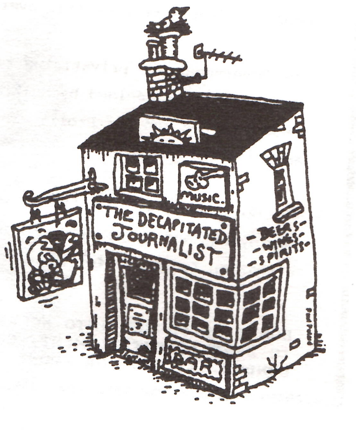
Picket of Hillingdon Hospital in support of 56 Asian women domestic workers on strike for over 6 months against their employer, Pall Mall's attempts to impose even worse pay and conditions.
The best time to go is between 11am and 3pm.
For more details and other events, contact the South Asian Solidarity Group on 0171-713 7907

Unison
NO SLAVE LABO

* 24/7 Southwark Claimants Union - 4-7 pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
* 25/7 Ship video night - 7pm - 612 Old Kent Rd SE15 - info 171 277 7639
* 26/7 Critical Mass cycle fightback - 5pm - South Bank
* 27 - 28/7 Day Mer anti-fascist carnival in Clissold Park N16 [not to be missed!]
* 27/7 Close Campsfield Refugee Detention Centre - noon - camp gates - info 1865 724 452
* 31/7 Dave Calendar, currently on 10 years, appeal hearing - High Court - 11am

And Ongoing:

* Saoirse has disbanded but work on Republican prisoners of War is still going on - contact them on 181 985 8250
* Ramona Africa's suit against the City of Philadelphia continues - messages of support to Judith Harris c/o Morgan Lewis and Bokius, 2000 One Logan Sq. Philadelphia PA 19103 US
* Every Weds and Fri, 7 til late - Move Cafe - Ja Rebane Centre - 12 Thornton St. SW
* Actions against detention centres and deporta tions your area info 0973 632 827 or CAR
* Bored - call the Freedom Network Action Lin for a cure -171 793 734
* Vomit - 10.30 - the McLibel case goes on - mos week days til summer - Cou 35 Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand info 171 713 126
* Free - Winston Silcott Defence Campaign - sti waiting for news on hi appeal - info PO Box 6796 London N15 4P
* Outrage - meets every Thursday - 7.30 pm Central Station Bar Wharfdale Rd. Kings
* Last Monday every month - 7.30 pm - Jo Shirkers Alliance ... and cheap food too at 121 Centr

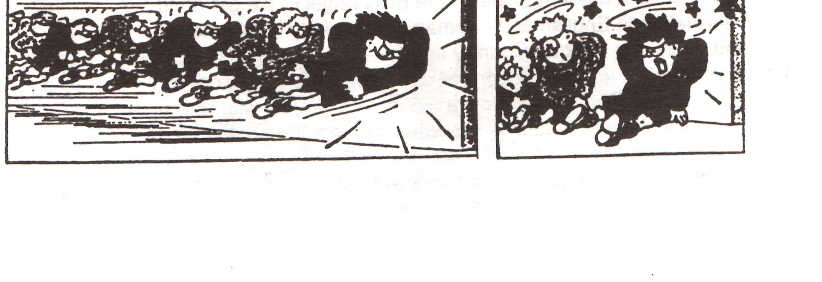


Interesting Publications

- **CARF - Campaign Against Racism and Fascism**, BM Box 8784, London WC1N 3XXBi-Monthly publication @ only 80p - any shop that hasn't got it ain't worth it.
- **TAKING LIBERTIES** - issue 18 out now, 60pplus post from ABC, 121 Railton Road SE24
- **SCHNEWS** - c/o On The Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-criminal Justice Act newsheet (SAE/ donation)
- **BAD ATTITUDE** - 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 (£1/SAE) Radical womyn's paper with international perspective and great news coverage. New issue out soon!!!!!
- **SQUATTERS HANDBOOK**- ***the long awaited 10th edition*** is finally out on the streets (and making its way into empty properties everywhere). This one has all the stuff on the Criminal Justice Act and other changes, which is why it's taken so long, but it's worth the wait. £1 (+p) from ASS (see contacts)

Contacts

- **Advisory Service for Squatters**, 2 St Pauls Rd, London, N1. 0171 359 8814 Mon-Fri 2-6pm.useful practical advice, the law etc.
- **121 Centre**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 0171 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info plus much more... CAFE open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7-11, and for Brunch Sundays from 11am, Bookshop open M, T, Th, 6-10, and Saturday 1-5
- **Brixton Squatters Aid**, 121 Railton Road SE24. 0171 274 6655, back on the streets after a couple of years rest. Call in when open.
- **56@ Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon,Thurs,Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.
- **75@ Squat Centre**, now at 67 Newington Green Rd N16, vegan caff Wed nesday, Thursday, friday and Sunday 7pm and much much more.
- **Colin Roach Centre**, 56 Clarence Rd E5 Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, and other local revos and activists. Tel 0181 533 7111
- **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce briilliant newsletter. Also have groups in most cities.
- **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**, BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX. Active again, especially amongst despatch, education and unemployed workers. Coming soon to an industry near you.
- **Haringey Solidarity Group**, PO Box 2474, London, N8 0HW. Involved in community/social struggles, produce brilliant local 'Community Action' newsletter. Planning local action against Jobseekers Allowance.
- **Lesbian Avengers**, meet every Tuesday, 7pm at the WHEEL, 4 Wild Court, London, WC1. "Non-violent direct action group committed to raising lesbian visability and fighting for our suvival and rights"


CHARGE!
CAPITALISM
AN' IT'S STILL STANDING!